

PRESS RELEASE

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For Immediate Release

November 8, 2007

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Randy R. Stewart, 40, Sioux Falls, South Dakota, was sentenced today by U.S. Magistrate Judge Stephen L. Crocker to one year of probation, a \$2,500 fine, and 96 hours of community service for introduction and delivery into interstate commerce of adulterated food. Stewart pleaded guilty to this charge on August 27, 2007.

The defendant is a cattle buyer who purchases cattle from auctions and feedlots in Iowa, Minnesota, and South Dakota. As a result of reports of illegal tissue residue levels involving animals purchased and delivered for slaughter by Stewart, the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) began an investigation of the defendant. FDA investigators discovered that on twelve occasions Stewart delivered cattle for slaughter, which were adulterated by containing an animal drug above the FDA residue tolerance levels. Tissue residue tolerances, set forth in the FDA regulations, reflect the FDA's scientific determination of the maximum safe level of a drug that may appear in the edible tissues of animals after slaughter. Further, Stewart did not tag the cattle he sent for slaughter pursuant to FDA regulations.

The charges against Stewart were the result of an investigation conducted by the Food and Drug Administration. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard.

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